

09/589,866
Page 7
December 5, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Schlitz. Claim 5 is objected to, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten appropriately. In view of the above amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and allow the present application to issue.

With regard to the rejection of the claims, the features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. As a result, claim 5 has been canceled herein. The amendment made herein will be understood by those reviewing this file at a later date not to be indicative of an agreement with the outstanding rejection, but merely an acceptance of the currently allowed claims in order to facilitate a more timely granting of this very long pending patent application.

In view of the present amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of record and allow the present application to issue. No new matter is introduced. However, should there remain any open issues in this application which might be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 320-363-7296 to further discuss the advancement of this application. While no fees should be due, please charge all small entity fees associated with this correspondence to deposit account 17-0155.

Sincerely,



Albert W. Watkins

reg. 31,676